

**What is claimed is:**

1. A support apparatus for supporting recycled use of equipment of a user, comprising:

5           an information obtaining unit obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user; and

          a determination unit determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit whether or not treatable articles restriction  
10           standards of a receiver of the equipment are exceeded.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
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          a charge determination unit determining whether or not a user is to bear a charge for recycle.

20       3. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

          a payment method determination unit determining a method of paying a charge when said charge determination unit determines that a user is  
25           to pay a charge.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

5 a calculation unit calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit.

5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein  
10 when said charge determination unit determines that a user is to pay a charge, the apparatus first confirms a payment of the charge by the user, and then performs a receiving process.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
15 said information obtaining unit obtains information from a user over a network.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 a location management unit managing a location and a type of the received equipment; and

a plant determination unit determining a plant which processes the equipment based on the location and the type of the equipment.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 a progress information generation unit generating information about progress of recycling equipment.

9. A program used to direct a computer to function as:

10 an information obtaining unit obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user; and

15 a determination unit determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit whether or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment are exceeded.

10. The program according to claim 9, further comprising:

20 a charge determination unit determining whether or not a user is to bear a charge for recycle.

11. The program according to claim 10, further comprising:  
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a payment method determination unit determining a method of paying a charge when said charge determination unit determines that a user is to pay a charge.

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12. The program according to claim 10, further comprising:

a calculation unit calculating the charge according to information obtained by said information obtaining unit.

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13. The program according to claim 11, wherein

when said charge determination unit determines that a user is to pay a charge, the computer first confirms a payment of the charge by the user, and then performs a receiving process.

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14. The program according to claim 9, wherein

said information obtaining unit obtains information from a user over a network.

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15. The program according to claim 9, further comprising:

a location management unit managing a location and a type of the received equipment; and

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a plant determination unit determining a plant which processes the equipment based on the location and the type of the equipment.

5      16.    A supporting method of supporting recycled use of equipment of a user, comprising:

obtaining equipment information about the equipment to be received from the user; and

10        determining according to information obtained by said information obtaining step whether or not treatable articles restriction standards of a receiver of the equipment are exceeded.

15      17.    The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

determining whether or not a user is to bear a charge for recycle.

20      18.    The method according to claim 17, further comprising:

determining a method of paying a charge when said charge determination step determines that a user is to pay a charge.

25      19.    The method according to claim 17, further

comprising:

calculating the charge according to  
information obtained by said information obtaining  
step.

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20. The method according to claim 18, wherein  
when said charge determination step determines  
that a user is to pay a charge, a payment of the  
charge by the user is first confirmed, and then a  
receiving process is performed.

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21. The method according to claim 16, wherein  
said information obtaining step obtains  
information from a user over a network.

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22. The method according to claim 16, further  
comprising:

managing a location and a type of the received  
equipment; and

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determining a plant which processes the  
equipment based on the location and the type of the  
equipment.